



# **HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HFD ANNOUNCES REORGANIZATION OF COMMAND STRUCTURE**

The Houston Fire Department (HFD) is pleased to announce a reorganization of its command structure. Utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS) model, HFD will be organized into four principal sections, i.e. Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance. Classified Executive Assistant Fire Chiefs will head up Operations, Planning, and Logistics, with a civilian Deputy Director in charge of Finance. An additional seven classified Assistant Fire Chiefs will report directly to a specified Executive Assistant. The Executive Chiefs, and the Deputy Director, will report directly to the Fire Chief.

As is the case for emergency response personnel, the NIMS command structure creates a definite chain of command, a manageable span of control, and unity of command for our Command Team. Working together, we will provide the citizens of Houston with the most efficient and effective emergency services possible.

"We want to have the best emergency response in the nation, guided by professionalism not politics, and representing the full diversity of talent within the Houston Fire Department," said Mayor Bill White.

Houston firefighters play a crucial role on the front lines, as they lead the City in preventing, preparing for, and responding to man-made and natural disasters. Given their significance, it is vital that our firefighters receive the necessary administrative and logistical support for them to safely perform their mission of saving lives and protecting property. The NIMS model allows the Houston Fire Department to leverage its existing capabilities and to streamline efforts by establishing a direct link between field and support personnel. The NIMS model places all HFD personnel under the same command system, and ensures that we all share the same operating standards and speak the same language when propelled into action.

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## **HFD REORGANIZATION OF COMMAND STRUCTURE, CONTINUED**

The following is an outline of the new command structure:

### **Operations**

**Executive Assistant Fire Chief Hector Trevino:** A thirty-six year veteran of HFD, Chief Trevino has served in the capacity as Assistant Fire Chief since June of 1998. Chief Trevino served as Acting Fire Chief for six months, immediately prior to Fire Chief Phil Boriskie's appointment. Chief Trevino will head the Operations Section, including Emergency Operations and Emergency Medical Services.

**Assistant Fire Chief Carl E. Matejka, Sr.:** A thirty-one year veteran of HFD, Chief Matejka brings a wealth of administrative and field experience to the team, as a former Assistant Fire Chief, where he supervised Emergency Operations, Planning & Research, and Safety. A graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program, Chief Matejka will supervise activities within Emergency Operations.

**Assistant Fire Chief Adrian Trevino:** A twenty-one year veteran of HFD, Chief Trevino has served as a front-line Paramedic, a Captain and a Senior Captain EMS Supervisor. Chief Trevino has obtained myriad training in the field of Homeland Security and Weapons of Mass Destruction; is an active member of the Houston Medical Strike Team; a veteran of the United States Coast Guard; and is fluent in Spanish. Chief Trevino will supervise activities within Emergency Medical Services.

### **Planning & Homeland Security**

**Executive Assistant Fire Chief Daniel G. (Danny) Snell:** A thirty-one year veteran of HFD, Chief Snell has served the past two years as an Assistant Fire Chief. Since being promoted to Captain in 1985, Chief Snell has been directly involved in the evolution of HFD's Hazardous Materials Response Team, serving as shift Captain, Assistant Coordinator, and upon Chief Max McRae's retirement, HMRT Coordinator. Chief Snell is nationally recognized as an expert in the field of hazardous materials response and training and has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the men and women of this department. Chief Snell will head the Planning & Homeland Security Section and oversee activities within the Fire Marshal's Office, Staff Services, Administration, and Special Operations.

**Assistant Fire Chief Tyrone Freeman:** A twenty-six year veteran of HFD, Chief Freeman has experience in the fields of supervision, criminal and civil fire investigations, fire and explosion investigations. Chief Freeman has served the last ten years in HFD's Arson Division as Investigator, Senior Investigator, and Assistant Arson Investigator. Chief Freeman will serve as Fire Marshal and supervise activities within Arson and Fire Prevention.

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## **HFD REORGANIZATION OF COMMAND STRUCTURE, CONTINUED**

**Assistant Fire Chief Thomas Patterson:** A thirty-three year veteran of HFD, Chief Patterson advanced through the ranks of Communications Captain, Communications Senior Captain, and Communications Chief. A veteran of the United States Army, a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program, and a former Assistant Fire Chief, Chief Patterson will supervise activities within Staff Services, including discipline, grievances, and classified recruiting.

**Assistant Fire Chief Bill Barry:** A twenty-six year veteran of HFD, Chief Barry has served as firefighter, paramedic, HMRT Captain, Technical Rescue Coordinator, and Finance & Administration District Chief. Chief Barry has served on various committees and advisory boards during his career, such as Texas A&M University USAR Advisory Board, District Chief's Technical Advisory Committee, Houston Triad, and Collective Bargaining Committee. Chief Barry will supervise activities within Administration and Special Operations.

### **Logistics**

**Executive Assistant Fire Chief Rick Flanagan:** A twenty-seven year veteran of HFD, Chief Flanagan has served the last seven years as Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Flanagan has served in fire suppression, EMS, Office of Emergency Communications, Val Jahnke Training Facility, Professional Development, Public Information, and Community Outreach. Chief Flanagan will oversee activities within Support and Services.

**Assistant Fire Chief Jack Williams:** A thirty-three year veteran of HFD, Chief Williams has served the last eight years as District Chief-Operations, with responsibility for Facility Management, Fire Station design and renovation, Special Events, Personnel Assignment Office, and liaison between Building Services and suppression personnel. Chief Williams will supervise activities within Support, including Fleet Operations, Materials Management, and Building Services.

**Assistant Fire Chief Omero Longoria:** A twenty-three year veteran of HFD, Chief Longoria has experience in fire suppression, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, and most recently as Quadrant Training Officer at the Val Jahnke Training Facility (VJTF). At VJTF, Chief Longoria has managed the design and development of several new and innovative programs, such as, the HFD Strategic Simulator, the Drivers' Training Continuing Education, Officer Development, Chief Officer Development, and the May Day/RIT. Chief Longoria will supervise activities within Services, including Professional Development, Cadet Training, Firefighter Training, Community Outreach, and Public Information.

"To support the members in the field, one of the most important actions I can take as Fire Chief is to appoint candidates that have the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to lead the men and women of the Houston Fire Department safely and effectively.

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## **HFD REORGANIZATION OF COMMAND STRUCTURE, CONTINUED**

To do this it is imperative that honesty, integrity, credibility, and confidence be embedded in the appointment process. I wish to thank the Mayor and his staff for their full support during this process. Working together we will continue to maintain the Houston Fire Department as one of the leading disaster-response agencies in the world," said Fire Chief Phil Boriskie.

Let me express my confidence that these appointees will bring the same level of enthusiasm and integrity to the Command Team that they have demonstrated in their previous assignments. I ask you to join me in wishing these members continued success.